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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/042,640

Examiner

Tuan V Ho

Applicant(s)

ISHIMOTO, KAZUO

Art Unit

2615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to _____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 8/01/02 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

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1. Claims 1-12 are allowed.

The prior art of record fails to suggest or disclose:

With regard to claim 1, a solid-state image pickup apparatus comprising a solid-state image pickup device for generating an information charge in response to an image of which light was received; a pulse generator circuit for generating and supplying the voltage booster pulses to the power supply; wherein the pulse generator circuit stops generation of the voltage booster pulses in accordance with a termination of an information charge readout operation of one screen pickup period from the image pickup device, and when the drive circuit executes an electronic shutter operation, which discharges the information charge that has accumulated in the solid-state image pickup device to resume accumulation, the voltage booster pulses are generated over a predetermined voltage booster period prior to the electronic shutter operation at a higher frequency than the information charge readout operation to boost the voltage of the power supply.

With regard to claim 7, a method for supplying the power to a solid-state image pickup apparatus comprising generating an information charge in response to an image of which light was received and accumulating the information charge in a solid-state device; stop generating the voltage booster pulses in accordance with a termination of an information charge readout operation of one screen pickup period from the image pickup device; and executing an electronic shutter operation, which discharges the information charge that has accumulated in the solid-state image pickup device to resume the accumulation such that voltage booster pulses are generated over a predetermined voltage booster period prior to the electronic shutter operation at

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a higher frequency than the information charge readout operation to boost the voltage of the power supply.

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Sakaegi discloses an image pickup apparatus that includes a power supply circuit.

Akizuki et al discloses an electronic camera that includes a power distribution control circuit.

Abe discloses an endoscope that includes a voltage generator supplying power to a CCD drive.

Sawanobori discloses a voltage controller for control power supply to a CCD driver.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TUAN HO whose telephone number is (703) 305-4943. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 7AM to 4PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Christensen, can be reached on (703) 308-9644. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

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TUAN HO

Primary Examiner

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